

# the otherpress

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## FINANCIAL ADVICE FOR STUDENTS





*JANIS*


The Other Press has been Douglas College's student newspaper since 1976. Since 1978 we have been an autonomous publication, independent of the student union. We are a registered society under the Society Act of British Columbia, governed by an eight-person board of directors appointed by our staff. Our head office is located in the New Westminster campus. The Other Press is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly during the summer. We receive our funding from a student levy collected through tuition fees every semester at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a syndicate of student newspapers that includes papers from all across Canada. The Other Press reserves the right to choose what we will publish, and we will not publish material that is hateful, obscene, or condones or promotes illegal activities. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary. All images used are copyright to their respective owners.


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
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- Restaurant 'circuit breaker' closures extended until May
  - Virtual Health Week events, dog therapy, and more this March
- ...and more

# Controversial Strathcona Park encampment will be cleared by the end of April

› The BC Government has allocated \$75.5 million to purchasing indoor spaces for the homeless

Luana Ross  
Senior Columnist

Vancouver Mayor Kennedy Stewart estimated that COVID-19 pushed up to 1500 people out of shelters due to reduced capacity restrictions. So it comes as welcome news to some that last Friday, the City of Vancouver broadcast that it had purchased the former 205 Kingsway Mount Pleasant Best Western to repurpose into 68 units of supportive housing.

Earlier this month, the Patricia Hotel at 403 E. Hastings St. was purchased for the same reason. In total, the city has obtained six hotels to convert. The Government of BC devoted \$75.5 million to the three most recently attained hotels, and all together the buildings offer 340 permanent homes with support for the homeless.

These spaces have been purchased as a solution for pressing issues like the Strathcona Park encampment for example. Because of such, the government will be enforcing its bylaws against camping in the park at the end of the month to clear the encampment. Specifically, an order has been delivered that "all existing tents, temporary shelters and structures must be removed from Strathcona Park by 10am Friday, April 30."

Similarly, Oppenheimer Park had an 18-month encampment until May 2020. It dissolved when BC Housing moved campers to supportive indoor spaces. But the Strathcona Park campers created Canada's biggest tent city by June 2020—so some are skeptical that the problem will go away so easily. Katie Lewis, vice-president of the Strathcona Residents' Association, brings up the concern that campers will not leave unless what they have asked for is given to them. According to *The Canadian Press*, "A group representing those in the park has said they want residences that are at least 600 square feet, that allow drug use and have no restrictions on guests." In reference to the homelessness crisis, in an interview with the CBC, Anna Cooper—staff lawyer with Pivot Legal Society—says that "it's impossible to achieve" a solution. "For a short period of time you'll have some people indoors. Then a bunch of people—that housing won't work for them—they'll be evicted, they'll be banned from a shelter, they'll be on the street again." The staff lawyer predicts that the encampment situation will arise again shortly. She calls the zero-encampment policy one that does not seem "fundamentally caring, rights-based, or dignified. That sounds like the policing of unhoused people and forcing them out of the public eye."

In contrast to Cooper's statements, Strathcona resident and father Adam Levy was exhausted by the government's inaction in dealing with the encampment. When speaking of the park, Levy stated that in the park one will find "condoms and needles, broken glass, everything." While the city has cleaned "over 70 tonnes of



Photo by Billy Bui

garbage" from the park from October 2020 to the end of February 2021, Levy states that from his experience "they've done a half-ass job of cleaning up half of Strathcona Park [...] There is still endless amounts of garbage there, if you go to the east side." Other issues in the park that have been reported on include high-profile camper Sandy Parisian getting charged with killing a senior citizen—and when officers arrived at the park to search her tent, the cops were met with a "volatile and hostile crowd" of encampment residents that had to be held back by a line of police. Additionally, as reported by the *Vancouver Sun*,

encampment resident Claudette Abraham reported flames that were about 25 feet in the air due to propane tank explosions.

Although there are many disagreements about the zero-encampment policy and the attempted solutions and necessity for bylaw enforcement, nearly all of the people interviewed on the subject highlight the importance of getting help to those struggling with mental health issues and addictions. May 2021 will offer the City of Vancouver some more insight into their attempt to solve this crisis.

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**Encampment resident Claudette Abraham reported flames that were about 25 feet in the air due to propane tank explosions.**



# Restaurant ‘circuit breaker’ closures extended until May

› Grants offered to struggling businesses, but some say it’s not enough



Photo by Arnaldo Fragozo

Jessica Berget  
Assistant Editor

On March 29, BC announced stricter restrictions on indoor restaurants, fitness group centres, and went back on their plans of allowing indoor religious gatherings. People are still able to dine in restaurants on outdoor patios but only with immediate household or core bubble, and indoor fitness centres are closed except for one-on-one activities like personal training. These three week “circuit breaker” restrictions were put in place to stop the spread of the new COVID variants were set to expire on April 19.

It was reported on April 13 that the restrictions have since been extended until at least the May long weekend according to a statement from the BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association (BCRFA). In the statement they also ask for clarity and expressed concern for the “inconsistency and confusion” regarding the guidelines for dining on outdoor patios, which the

provincial health officer is expected to put together and distribute. BCRFA president Ian Tostenson says there is relief that restaurants are receiving advance notice on these closures, so they know how much food to order, but also concern as it means more loss of revenue for the restaurant industry.

Some restaurateurs are supportive of the newest public health orders while others feel restaurants are being unfairly targeted. The owner of Glowbal Restaurant Group, Emad Yacoub in a March 29 BC CTV News article for instance supports the closures and feels it’s the people who aren’t following these health orders are to blame. “I hope this is a wake-up call for everybody in the industry for us to get our act together and be sure we are following the guidelines,” says Yacoub. “We have been blessed; we were the only province in Canada that were open during all that time. People took advantage, and this is the consequences of it.”

In an April 14 *Vancouver Sun* article, Vancouver restaurateur Matt Thompson

(owner of Cannibal Café, Alphabet City, Park Drive restaurant, and Five Point Restaurant and Pub) is angry that stores like Costco and public transportation busses are packed and argues the Ministry of Health has not provided enough evidence to support the spread of coronavirus in restaurants.

Whether people agree with the restaurant closures or not, Jeff Guignard with the Alliance of Beverage Licensees sums up the anxiety of all restaurant owners during this time in the same BC CTV News article. “It’s really sad for people who worked really hard to keep us open,” he said. “If you don’t have a patio right now—and even if you do, honestly, unless it’s a beautiful sunny day—you’re going to be hurt financially by this.”

Many say that these restrictions are not enough to curb the spread of the virus, but Vancouver health minister Adrian Dix disagrees. He says they’re “seeing some effects” from the March 29 public health orders but still need to ensure physical

distancing. The province has yet to release official industry specific data that shows COVID-19 spreading in indoor settings.

For restaurants struggling with the public health closures, a \$50 million relief package for 14,000 restaurants, gyms, bars, and other businesses was announced on April 8. The Circuit Breaker Relief Grant will give businesses that were affected a one-time cash infusion of \$1000 to \$10,000 to help with costs like rent, wages, insurance, and unexpected losses because of the sudden closures (like spoiled food). However, many restaurateurs like Mike Joss, owner of Gorge Pointe Pub in Victoria says it will do little to help. “We’re \$10,000 down on a regular Friday night right now [compared to] what we’d normally do, so as nice as it is, it’s a bit of a Band-Aid on a wound,” said Joss in a recent CBC article. Restaurants not compliant with the public health orders are not eligible for the grant.

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The province has yet to release official industry specific data that shows COVID-19 spreading in indoor settings.





# What's going down at Dougie?

› Douglas College online events April to May

Jessica Berget  
Assistant Editor

Final exam season is here and then it's fun in the sun until fall classes come back (unless you're one of those freaks who takes summer classes). While the spring semester at Douglas is coming to an end, the fun never stops and the college has planned a number of online events to quell the COVID-19 summer boredom and to encourage safe socialization. Here are the college's (all online) events from the end of April to beginning of May.

## **Career Boot Camp**

April 26, 27, and 28 from 10am to 3pm  
Need help figuring out what to do or where to go for work after graduation? This interactive workshop will help strategize students for the years ahead with group activities, strength assessments, and an employer discussion panel. Students can go to the Douglas College Career Hub to register.

## **Douglas College Research Day Deadline**

April 26 at noon

Research Day is an annual event at the college that let Douglas College students showcase their work in individual or group research projects. The event (which usually is in person) will shift to an online, week-long event from May 3 to 7. April 26 is the deadline for students to register their research projects for this event. Students are invited to make presentations displaying their research and another short presentation with a Student Life team member discussing the findings of their research. Every applicant is a winner as each participant will be given a gift card in exchange for their hard work and dedication.

## **Information Session for Future Students**

April 27, 29, and May 20 at 5pm

For new students planning to come to the college next semester, registration for the upcoming information session are now open. The Douglas College information sessions give potential students the skinny on many important aspects of college life such as admission requirements, career pathways, university transfer options, and curriculum guidelines to name a few. Each program specific information session will be led by an appropriate faculty member from that program so students can interact with possible future instructors.

## **2021 Student Leadership Awards**

April 29 at 6pm

This annual event hosted by Student Life celebrates exceptional students and faculty that have made memorable contributions to the school or student engagement. This year's event will not only focus on this academic year but show the leadership of individuals throughout their career at Douglas.

## **DougTalks: Career Changes With Leonard Schein**

May 6 at 12:30pm to 1:30pm

Former Douglas College instructor Leonard Schein is best known for founding the Vancouver International Film Festival and Festival Cinemas. Now, this entrepreneur, philanthropist, and psychologist is coming back to give wise words and advice on career changes and following your passion.



- Team made three deals on NHL trade deadline day
  - How the pandemic affected youth soccer
- ...and more

# Canucks return to ice after COVID-19 outbreak

› Team made three deals on NHL trade deadline day

Brandon Yip  
Senior Columnist

The Vancouver Canucks are recovering from their COVID-19 outbreak. *Daily Hive* reported April 14 that Jay Beagle and Quinn Hughes were removed from the NHL's COVID list a day before. It leaves 16 Canuck players on the active roster that are still in protocol. The Canucks' season has been on temporary pause with the NHL rescheduling their games.

The *Daily Hive* also reported April 13 that Rogers Arena has placed cardboard cutouts in seats at Rogers Arena for the Canucks' remaining eight home games. Season ticket holders can purchase a cardboard cutout of themselves with proceeds going to the Canucks for Kids Fund charity. With Canuck fans having a reputation for being too quiet during home games at Rogers Arena, it has felt like cardboard cutouts were already in the seats.

April 12 was also NHL trade deadline day, and the Canucks made three deals. Sportsnet reported the Canucks traded forward Adam Gaudette to the Chicago Blackhawks in exchange for forward Matthew Highmore. The second trade as reported by *Daily Hive* had the Canucks trading Jordie Benn to the Winnipeg Jets in exchange for a draft pick (sixth round). Then the Canucks made another trade with the Blackhawks acquiring defenceman, Madison Bowey (former Kelowna Rockets player of the WHL), and a 2021 draft pick (fifth round). Chicago receives a 2021 fourth-round pick.

Some Canuck fans on social media were not happy with Adam Gaudette being dealt, their malice being directed at Canucks GM, Jim Benning. Ben Kuzma of *The Province* posted on Twitter Jim Benning's comments about why he traded Gaudette: "A lot went into the decision. He wanted to play higher in the lineup, and it was about his two-way game and we wanted him to keep improving. To be honest, we expected him to take another step this year and we really didn't feel like he did that." Sportsnet writer and Canucks' analyst Iain MacIntyre posted his thoughts on Twitter about the Gaudette trade: "Canucks were looking for a taker for Adam Gaudette long before the COVID crisis. Matthew Highmore may not turn into an NHL regular, but VAN was convinced Gaudette wasn't going to become the player they need."

Sportsnet reported Gaudette, who is 24 years old, is a pending restricted free agent. He played 33 games this season, scoring four goals with three assists averaging 10:54 of ice-time. Gaudette had also tested positive for COVID-19 two weeks ago and was on the Canucks' non-roster injured reserve. On April 11, he cleared the NHL's COVID-19 protocol list. Gaudette was the Canucks' fifth round (149th overall) pick in the 2015 NHL Draft.



Photo by Arnaldo Fragozo

In 153 regular season games in a Canuck uniform, he scored 21 goals and 31 assists with 67 penalty minutes.

Micaela Gaudette, wife of Adam, told *The Province* on April 2 that she does not know how they contracted the virus. She had spoken with contact-tracing officials from BC's Centre for Disease Control. "We told the CDC and (Canucks) everything we did in the last week prior to the positive test," she said regarding the conversations they had on March 30 (after her husband's test came back positive the day before). "They assured us we did nothing wrong and could have contracted it from anywhere, really. So, I'm definitely going to believe them over anyone on Twitter with a burner account."

Micaela says they have received a positive response and support from fans on social media. However, they have faced their share of criticism and haters as well—one of the negative downsides being on social media. "I just feel bad for Adam," she said. "He's so sick and just doesn't deserve the hate when we have done nothing wrong. Everyone wants to see more personality from players, so this hockey world is a bit

less dull, then when something goes wrong that's out of anyone's control, it makes it hard to want to keep staying on social media and interacting."

Jim Benning told Sportsnet that 10 Vancouver players skated at Rogers Arena, which reopened on April 12. Among those attending practice was star forward, Elias Pettersson (who remains out with a wrist injury) but may be returning to the lineup soon. The Canucks' communication department posted on Twitter that the team practiced on April 14 (individual sessions only) followed by another practice the next day with Rogers Arena being open to the media. However, on April 15, the Canadian Press reported (uploaded on Sportsnet.ca) the media was banned from attending practice stating, "No reason for the decision was given in the tweet [by the Canucks' communication department]."

The Canucks' revised schedule had them playing 19 games in a span of 31 days (April 16 till May 16). It is a lot of hockey games in a short span of time it is almost incomprehensible. But on April 15, Sportsnet's Elliott Friedman reported the Canucks and Oilers game on April 16 has

been postponed as the Canucks continue to recover from their COVID-19 outbreak. Vancouver's schedule will once again be revised by the NHL as the Canucks' interrupted season and situation continues to change daily.

Vancouver forward, J.T. Miller, voiced his displeasure about the condensed rescheduling amidst the recent COVID-19 breakout affecting the team. "It's kind of frustrating if I'm being 100 per cent honest with you," Miller said to the media during a Zoom call. "We've tried to talk about the number one priority is players' health and their families' safety, and it's almost impossible to achieve that with what they have asked us to do here on our return. I talk to my teammates a lot and this hasn't been, obviously, that easy. For them to try to come back and play... it's going to be very challenging and not very safe, if you're asking me. And I'm sure there are other people that would agree with that." Fans will see how the Canucks will perform as they restart their season. It has been a very unprecedented season during even more unprecedented times.



# An interview with BC Soccer's Communications Officer Peter Schad

› How the pandemic affected youth soccer

Mo Hussain  
Sports Reporter

As we discussed last week, the pandemic was a massive roadblock for organized sports. The restrictions had a significant impact on professional and collegiate athletes; now imagine the effects of shutting down youth sports for developing teenagers. Peter Schad, BC Soccer's Marketing and Communications Officer, gives the *Other Press* his perspective on what the last year has been like for both the league and its youth players:

**Other Press: How did the pandemic impact youth registration?**

**Peter Schad:** "The youth season ended in March. When June came around, it felt like there was soccer again. In July, it looked a little bit more promising. When we got closer to the fall, it seemed like we were gonna get back to playing soccer in a cohort model. We're trying to remain in neighbouring districts only, so we weren't sending people traveling because of the non-essential travel. There was a drop off in registration, but I didn't think it was as bad as we thought it was going to be. What's really interesting is that right now is pre-registration for a lot of the interior

season (Kelowna, Kamloops, etc)—and they are showing some really good signs. What we've heard from our members is they're very encouraged, looking ahead to summer and fall."

**OP: How have young players reacted to this whole situation?**

**PS:** "From my experience coaching U-12, it's really hard to keep a bunch of orangutans apart from each other. I'm not sure if this is the same for everybody but we're magnificent. We went through all the protocols, we talked about all the things you have to do. Our club made it very clear exactly what they wanted. I think for the most part, people were really respectful of the rules and regulations.

But I'm very concerned and very worried about the outcome of this. Where you're switching from elementary school to high school, the one constant you have in your life is sport. You can rely on your team, and you can rely on that physical outlet. Then all of a sudden, it's gone. My concern is the psychological effects in the long run.

We're just hoping that things improve on the case front, on the variant fronts, and on the vaccination front so that we can get back to it because the psychological outcome is the untold

story of the pandemic. There's a lot of anxiety, there's a lot of uncertainty, and we've created a fear-based culture. We're supposed to be afraid of going to school, we're afraid of going shopping, etc. That is the most disappointing thing about this last year."

**OP: What have you guys been doing to keep the youth engaged?**

**PS:** "In the initial stages last year, it happened very organically which is one positive that came from the pandemic. People were starting to jiggle toilet rolls. What we notice in the human spirit is that people will overcome things, and they'll make their own activities. That's what a lot of people did. We encourage the at home skills challenge. We created all sorts of programming done in isolation to keep everybody sharp. We tried to arm the coaches with as much material as possible, in addition to what they were already doing.

Of course, you know, BC soccer is the governing body, and we don't actually deliver the soccer experience. The club's membership delivers. We're the governing body, our job is to support everybody and help them as much as we can get through things. Our clubs have been doing a great job thus far."

**OP: What are your projections for the foreseeable future for BC Soccer?**

**PS:** "We were hoping that we were going to get back to having contact gameplay that we were sort of experiencing in September by the end of this month. I'm going to remain positive which is all we can do and be hopeful prepared. The other thing that was a really good outcome of this pandemic was we had time to do some things that we haven't had time to do. We had time to look at some of our policies, and we had time to examine our departments no matter what they were.

We've also been able to connect with our members via Zoom. Before you either get on the phone, you send an email, or you drive up. Zoom, and other video applications, are actually a really great thing because we've connected with so many of our membership clubs.

In that sense, I will say that this year has actually been a real benefit because we've connected with members in a new way. We feel more connected now to our members whether they're in the valley or in Prince George. This has been good in that regard."

*DISCLAIMER: Much of what Peter mentioned was paraphrased*



# The 1989 Hillsborough Disaster

› Paul Chapman of 'The Province' shares a very personal story

Brandon Yip  
Senior Columnist

Over three decades have passed since the Hillsborough Disaster, where 96 Liverpool fans died during an FA Cup semi-final match. It has been a very painful period for the victims' families. They have been on a mission fighting for justice for their loved ones.

The families have endured years of delays due to police cover ups and erroneous false stories circulated in the media damaging the reputation of their loved ones. The main culprit was *The Sun* newspaper, which has been boycotted by Liverpool fans (to spell out its name is sacrilege to them). Also, the families protested an inquiry's conclusion that "accidental death" was the cause of all 96 deaths at Hillsborough. The ruling was later overturned by a coroner's findings in December 2012.

In April 2016, a second inquest led to a jury ruling that the 96 people were "unlawfully killed." However, another setback occurred in 2019, when David Duckenfield was found not guilty of the gross negligence manslaughter of 95 Liverpool fans. He was the former South Yorkshire Police chief superintendent and the then match commander at Hillsborough.

Paul Chapman, Deputy Editor for *The Province*, remembered what he was doing the day of the Liverpool and Nottingham Forest match. "Well, [I was] up early waiting for the score on the game to be released on CBC radio," Chapman said in an email interview with the *Other Press*. "There were no all sports channels, no internet. The game was supposed to kick off at 7 am our time, and when I heard the bulletin that the game was being abandoned 15 minutes in. What followed was a flurry of phone calls from our kitchen to the United Kingdom."

Chapman also has a very personal connection to Hillsborough. "The next day we got word that my dad's cousin, Ray Chapman, was amongst the dead," Chapman said. "While the whole city was in disbelief at what happened, the days, weeks, months, and years that followed did nothing but pour salt in the wound. The characterization that Liverpool fans were at fault played to a painful stereotype about the city."

In April 2009, the *Liverpool Echo* profiled Ray Chapman as part of a larger project to honour the 96 victims who died at Hillsborough. The *Echo* wrote, "Ray Chapman shouldn't have been at Hillsborough. The 50-year-old dad-of-two did not have enough vouchers to qualify for a ticket, but at the last minute a friend in his Prenton local gave him his because he couldn't travel."

Ray was from Prenton and worked at the Champion Spark Plugs factory in Birkenhead. He had been looking forward to retirement with his wife, Joan, who told the same publication, "I went with him into Liverpool to get the ticket. Before he set off on the day, we arranged to meet at the Halfway House for a drink that evening





# er, part two

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**While the whole city was in disbelief at what happened, the days, weeks, months, and years that followed did nothing but pour salt in the wound. The characterization that Liverpool fans were at fault played to a painful stereotype about the city.**

**– Paul Chapman, Deputy Editor of 'The Province'**

when he was back. I had a shirt ironed and ready on the bed for him to get changed into. I'll never, ever forget that night.”

Joan stated the first couple of years after Ray's death, she was in shock. She fell into depression and had suicidal thoughts. But for the sake of her two children, Andrew and Karen, she decided to carry on with her life. Joan remembered going to Sheffield to identify Ray's body. “All the victims were in one room and it was like a madhouse with screaming and crying,” she said. “I was terrified of seeing him in case he was badly injured but he just had a bruise on his face and looked asleep. His hair was slightly out of place and I wanted to fix it for him but he was behind glass casing [...] He was a lovely man [and a] real gentleman who was a great father and husband. I wouldn't be surprised if he had gone back to help someone before he died.”

Paul Chapman said the Hillsborough tragedy could have been prevented had there been better planning by police officials beforehand (to control the overcrowding at the stadium). After the 96 deaths, police were more focused on covering up their mistakes rather than being accountable and admitting errors were made.

Perhaps giving a sincere apology immediately to the families of the victims would have gone a long way in helping them cope better in the healing process. Their lives were forever changed on that fateful day on April 15, 1989. “There was no crowd control plan,” Chapman said. “The lies were started by media and perpetuated by police, trying to save their own careers and covering up their own negligence. You go to a hockey game, you take for granted that there are police, ushers, and private security who have a plan on how to manage people so this kind of thing never happens. On that day in Sheffield, 96 fans went to a game excited to see Liverpool, the Tricky Reds, the best team in England at the time, make it to another FA Cup Final. They never came home.”

Illustration by Janis McMath





# Canucks bounce back after long battle with COVID-19

› This was a much-needed win for the team



Photo by Arnaldo Fragozo

Mo Hussain  
Sports Reporter

The Vancouver Canucks came back with a bang Sunday afternoon as they beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 3 to 2 in overtime. Captain Bo Horvat finished with two goals, including the overtime game winner. Goaltender Braeden Holtby finished with 39 saves.

This was a much-needed win for the team after being out of action for over three weeks due to complications with COVID-19. It also doesn't hurt that the win was against one of the top teams in the entire league.

"This isn't just a regular win during the regular season," said Canucks head coach

Travis Green. "It's a special win, we've gone through a lot here with our group over the last few weeks."

The Leafs started the game with some momentum as forward William Nylander drew first blood with his 100th career goal to start the game. The Leafs then extended their lead in the second period as forward Auston Matthews' goal gave the team a 2 to 0 lead.

However, just under two minutes after, Canucks' captain Bo Horvat brought the Canucks to the scoresheet and cut the lead in half. The Canucks then tied the game in the third period as rookie Nils Hoglander scored his eighth goal of the season.

When asked if his goal felt extra important in this game, Hoglander said:

"It was a tight game—for me and the team it was an important goal. It felt nice to get that win today."

Both teams then went into overtime where Horvat sealed the deal for Vancouver with his 16th goal of the season.

"I couldn't (be) prouder of our guys in that room," said Horvat. "The way they manned up tonight and stuck with the process and willed their way to that win."

Canucks goaltender Braden Holtby also commented on how special the win was for the team: "It was a good game. I think we battled hard—we're just happy we pulled off a win. Winning creates some much-needed energy that I think we're gonna have to use to push through this schedule we have ahead of us."

Although Sunday's win was a fantastic outcome for the team to come back to, the team needs to regroup quickly as they play the Maple Leafs again Tuesday afternoon. The Canucks are heading into Tuesday having tied their season series against the Maple Leafs, with three wins in six games.

This is the projected full schedule for the rest of the week, (potentially subject to change):

- **Tuesday:** Toronto Maple Leafs @ Vancouver Canucks
- **Thursday:** Ottawa Senators @ Vancouver Canucks
- **Saturday:** Ottawa Senators @ Vancouver Canucks
- **Monday:** Vancouver Canucks @ Ottawa Senators



- A review of a virtual dance show by plastic orchid factory
  - 'Freaky Friday' is freaky good
  - Oscar analysis: 'Nomadland'
- ...and more

## 'FREAKY FRIDAY' IS FREAKY GOOD

› Disney classic only  
gets better with age



Illustration by Janis McMath

Jessica Berget  
Assistant Editor

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Very seldom are there quality movies I genuinely forget about—but *Freaky Friday* (2003) was one of those movies. The irreverent comedy as well as the wholesome and loving family moments make this the perfect movie to watch with friends or family and guarantee to make you laugh and think about how much you love your mom (or your daughter).

A stern but loving mother, Tess (Jamie Lee Curtis) has difficulty reaching her rebellious teenage daughter Anna (Lindsay Lohan), and both wish that the other would understand them better. Tess works hard at being a psychologist and becoming a newly published author and all the while she is about to get married to another man years after the death of Anna's father. Anna plays guitar in her punk band Pink Slip hoping to make it big while trying to gain the affection of the motorcycle-riding teenage heartthrob Jake (Chad Michael Murray), avoid her bully Stacey Hinkhouse, and deal with the difficulties of a typical high schooler's life.

After the two have a spat in a Chinese restaurant, the owner of the restaurant gives them

a magic fortune cookie which make them go into each other's bodies. After the two wake up the next morning and realize what had happened, they do everything to try to fix it before Tess' wedding and Anna's punk music audition (even going so far as running full speed into each other, which obviously doesn't work). Hilarity ensues as the two try to live in each other's bodies while trying to appear normal to their friends and family and attempting to not let on that they have no idea what they're doing. Case in point: Anna (in Tess' body) does an interview for Tess' new book. Having no idea what the book is about, she goes on about the importance of screaming how you feel which effectively turns into her crowd surfing the audience. Meanwhile, Tess (in Anna's body) tells off Anna's English teacher for failing because Tess rejected him when in high school.

The movie has some surprisingly hilarious scenes and dialogue that I forgot about until rewatching. Jamie Lee Curtis' physical comedy while acting as a 15-year-old punky rebellious teenage girl in a 40-year-old's body is a spectacle to behold. And who can forget her quintessential line when they first change bodies: "UGGHHH, I'm like the Crypt Keeper!" Lindsay Lohan's impression of a hard-ass psychologist mother borders on adorable and is a great balance to Curtis' wacky and hilarious demeanor which makes the relationship between the two

characters all the more lovable and relatable. Each of the side characters have their charm and the camaraderie between Anna's younger brother Harry and Grandpa is cute and goofy. However, Curtis as Anna in Tess' body steals the scene every single time.

Another great element to the movie: the fashion! The 2000s punk rock outfits really make you wish you kept your fingerless gloves and chokers. The soundtrack also hits the nail on the head of the wholesome family feel and the song "Take Me Away" played by Anna's band Pink Slip perfectly encapsulates the movie and will never leave your head once you hear it.

What really gives this movie its standing though is its heart. The hilarious first half of the film ends on a sweet and loving note when Tess plays guitar for Anna's band during the big audition and Anna gives a moving speech at Tess' wedding reception. After they reconcile their differences and realize they love each other, they finally switch back.

I wouldn't even call this a movie; it's a gift and a sophisticated film that should be regarded highly as a classic among the likes of *Casablanca* and *Citizen Kane* (although I would still much rather watch *Freaky Friday*). If you are revisiting some of the old family Disney films, make this one the top of your list.



# The genius of *Phineas and Ferb*: part two

› Top season one bops (and the multilingual versions!)

Janis McMath  
Editor-in-Chief

As mentioned in my previous article about this iconic show, the crowning jewel of the greatness of *Phineas and Ferb* is the music. Hit after hit, after hit—after hit! This article will only cover season one’s titular tracks—but there is a *lot* of ground to cover. It’s important to mention that the songs that aren’t included are still bangers, but they may just be repetitive or lacking memorable lyrics—and the list was too long.

Also, did you know that most *Phineas and Ferb* songs are translated for other countries? There are few exceptions, but most songs have several translated versions! There are quite a few international adaptations that are smash hits. Here is the exhaustive list of the best title tracks in the first season:

## **Perry the Platypus Theme by Randy Crenshaw**

This classic spy theme features the iconic “DOO-BE-DOO-BE-DOO-BAH” lyric that speaks to everyone. “He’s a semi-aquatic-egg-laying mammal of ACTION” kills every time without fail. Also, the Spanish version is full of raw energy and might very well be the superior version of this track.

## **Backyard Beach by Ferb**

Ferb serves up this fresh reggae beat—and it is without a doubt one of the best songs of the entire series. The Norwegian and French versions are hits.

## **Gitchee Gitchee Goo by Phineas and the Ferb-Tones**

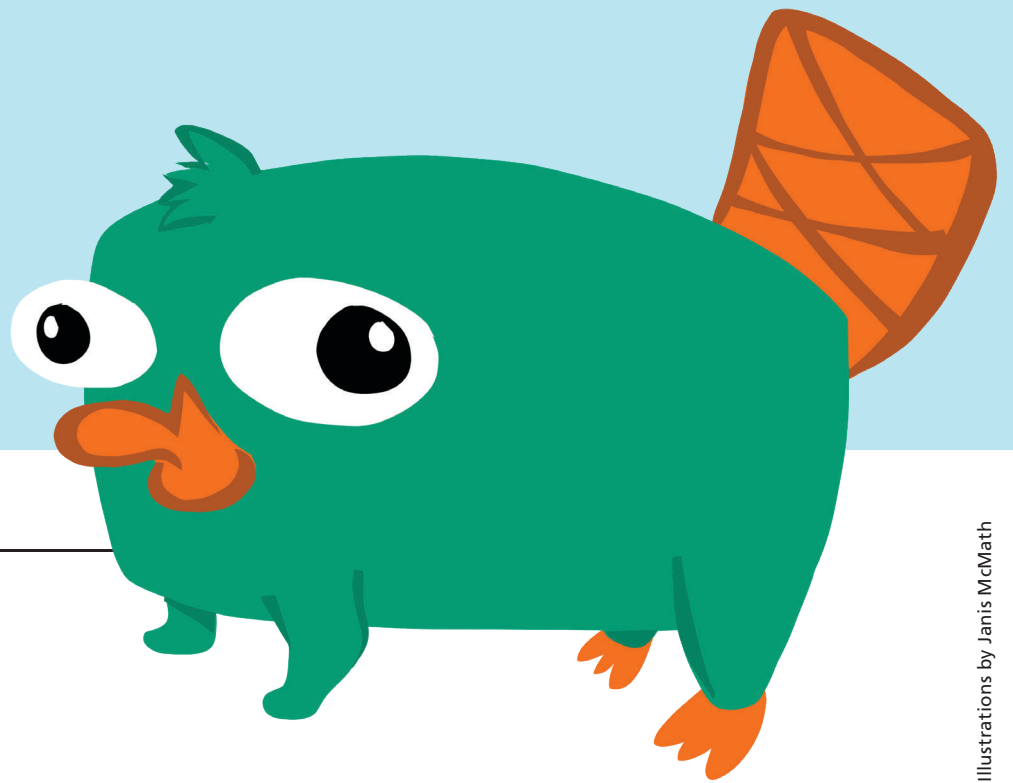
In the episode “Flop Starz,” the gang strives to become a one-hit-wonder band. They sing this song with the intent of creating a tune that is utterly nonsensical but catchy—and it is undoubtedly a bop. I love the stupidity of this song. The Greek version is great fun (Ferb’s line in this version is the best part).

## **I’m Lindana and I Wanna Have Fun by Lindana**

The show only offers a shortened version of this song, but the extended album version is a carved-into-your-brain type of hit. The song is obviously based on Cyndi Lauper’s “Girls Just Want To Have Fun,” but Lauper has been one-upped by one-hit wonder Lindana. This song also slaps in Spanish.

## **Phinedroids and Ferbots by the Phinedroids and Ferbots**

This is another all-time favourite; this electronic hit is better than most. The Croatian version is rusty, the Dutch version is mechanical, and my personal favourite—the Czech version—is very spacey.



Illustrations by Janis McMath

## **E.V.I.L B.O.Y.S. by Candace**

As usual, Candace searches out her mom to tattle on her trouble-making brothers—but since she is incapacitated by her wild parsnip allergy, her altered voice (which is lusciously deep) serves as a perfect lead for this blues-rock hit. Predictably, the German version of this hard-rock song goes hard. Turkish and Arabic also are invited to the party.

## **Ready for the Bettys by The Bettys**

This British female pop-rock group offers this banger which you “gotta bang your Betty bongos” to. This smash hit has a lot of international versions that are way too deep in tone for my taste, but the French version is a star.

## **Busted by Vanessa and Candace**

The female-duet pop song features two of the best singers on the show and is a shining example of how top-grade *Phineas and Ferb*’s music is; this song could easily be at the top of a pop-music chart. The Italian version *almost* has more flow than the English version.

## **Ain’t Got Rhythm by Sherman and Phineas**

The episode “Dude, We’re Getting the Band Back Together” is a highlight episode that features several supreme tracks—and this track the best of the best. This rock song lives in my mind 365 days a year. Many of the international versions don’t have the same rhythm of the original—which is sort of the point of the song—so English is far and away the best version. But the Dutch version does do a pretty good job with the flow and so does the Mandarin version.

## **S.I.M.P. (Squirrels In My Pants) by 2 Guyz N the Parque**

A hilariously unfortunate acronym by today’s standards, this alternative hip-hop bop is the top. An example of the lyrical genius of this song: “who you got back home, watering your plants? S-I-M-P, squirrels in my pants! How can I qualify for government grants?” and “Got an Aunt Florence living in France.” Apparently Cantonese and Japanese hip-hop can be fire. The Japanese version is especially hilarious as the high-pitched tone of Candace’s “SQUIRRELS” scream is perfect.

## **Disco Miniature Golfing Queen by Laura Dickinson**

*Phineas and Ferb* executes their disco parody perfectly—and with funky outfits to match. The Swedish version just sounds right, and maybe that comes from years of listening to ABBA, but it hits that sweet spot. The Turkish (“disco miniature golf kizi” SLAPS) and Italian versions have a bit of their own style—and both are great iterations of the track.

## **Perry the Teenage Girl by Sheena Easton**

This cover version of the classic “Perry the Platypus Theme” is a hidden gem. The song only plays in the credits of episode “Does This Duckbill Make Me Look Fat?” so it doesn’t get the recognition it should as one of the best, but Easton really belts it out. “She’s a semi-neurotic teenage girl of ACTION” is comedy. The singer for the Ukrainian version of this song also puts her whole heart into it.

## **Shooting Star Milkshake Bar by Danny Jacob**

This garage rock song is a cosmic knee-slapper! After all, “It’s not a nebula; it’s not a quasar. It’s the shooting star milkshake bar!” This high energy song is well served by the Mandarin cover.

## **Chains on Me by The Smile Away Reformatory Glee Club feat. Dan Povenmire**

*Phineas and Ferb* really smashes the ball right out of the park when it comes to the blues. The song also is really meaningful or whatever. (The lyrics “they say imagination is morally wrong” really can give kids something to think about if you care about educational content or whatever.) The English version is an obvious number one bop cause Povenmire (who also sung “E.V.I.L. B.O.Y.S.”) has a voice like honey on fire. But!—damn, does the Latin American singer kill his voice and bare his naked soul while singing this gritty song. Hot damn!



# Podcast spotlight: 'Blockbuster: The Story of James Cameron'

› An overview of 'Titanic' director's early mishaps and accomplishments

Jonathan Pacico  
Senior Columnist

If you're a movie buff that really loves podcasts about film history, I can gladly recommend *Blockbuster: The Story of James Cameron*. Creator Matt Schrader began this show with its first season of six episodes that skillfully mapped out the early movie careers of directors George Lucas and Steven Spielberg during the 1970s. Season two continues the fun with new and familiar stories about its titular subject.

The podcast is a 10-part miniseries that covers legendary filmmaker James Cameron during his own career in the 1980s and 1990s. It unravels the director's hardships and successes in making several of his now beloved movies, especially his most ambitious film *Titanic*.

*Blockbuster's* voice cast did a remarkable job of re-enacting Cameron's surreal, everyday encounters with soon-to-be-famous actors from the late Bill Paxton to Arnold Schwarzenegger. Cameron's life narrative is grounded immensely with the humble beginnings of people we now look up to as film icons.

As for Marquand, he captures Cameron's vocal cadence that reflects his child-like passion of chasing his dreams. Yet, every pause, nervous stutter, and timid tone evoke Cameron's surprising uncertainties during his youth and tensions

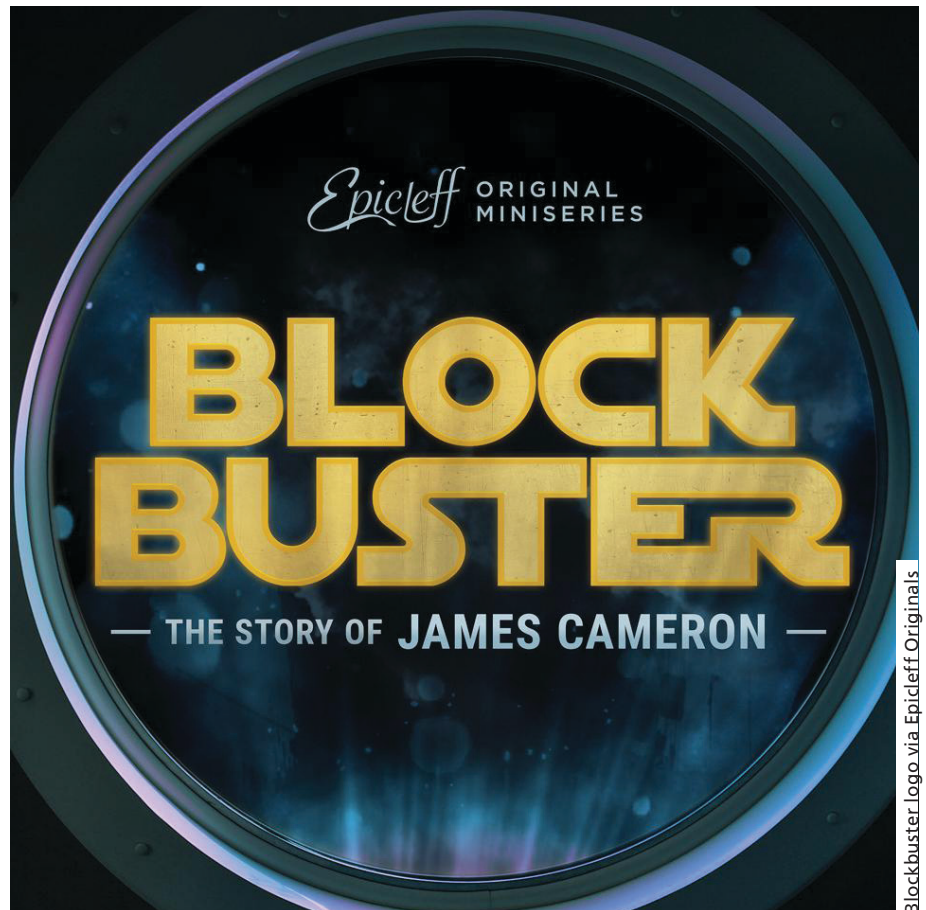
with his father. Marquand also presents the director as a frustrated perfectionist via mean, intimidating dialogue. The script pulls no punches in exploring Cameron's infamous work ethic among his casts, film crews, and producers.

The story's audio is truly superb due to brilliant sound mixing and editing. This technical craft balances the narrator describing the challenges on every film with the voice cast's dialogue recordings. Background noises of bustling activity from movie set workers or city traffic further make the sound design eclectic and convey the exciting, busy world of entertainment.

What is obviously the best part of the podcast is Cameron's experiences making *Titanic*. Media scrutiny, overbudgeting, and even an incident on set involving drugged soup are just some of the facets that frame this story with such a surprising lens.

However, the most self-defining part of Cameron's time with this classic romantic drama is his friendship and collaboration with late music composer James Horner. Encapsulating this arc is the composer's monumental creation of Céline Dion's "My Heart Will Go On" for the movie. Cameron being touched by this music for the first time emphasizes how incredibly moving the song will always be to listeners both past and present.

The miniseries provokes you to go back and watch Cameron's films, appreciating his movies even more in



knowing just how close each project was to falling apart. In the end, season two is a highly captivating narrative that keeps

listeners informed without boring them. You can watch *Blockbuster* on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and other platforms.

# Oscar analysis: 'Nomadland'

› A houseless woman on the road



Promotional image for 'Nomadland'

Jerrison Oracion  
Senior Columnist

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

A lot of progress has been made throughout history, and for that to continue there have to be changes in the work industry. Everyone that is laid off due to the pandemic will have to find new jobs and this often involves learning new skills and exploring a variety of jobs until one can find the position that is right for them. The film *Nomadland* explores these themes of unemployment and finding new jobs.

Chloé Zhao's *Nomadland*—based on the book by Jessica Bruder—takes place in 2011 where an industry town in Nevada called Empire is erased from the map after the local gypsum plant is shut down because low demand. Everyone in the town is now unemployed including Fern (Frances McDormand) who recently lost her husband. She is now a nomad: a person that travels around the country without a house or fixed address and does a variety of jobs, and in her case, being an Amazon warehouse worker, a concierge in a RV park, a waitress, and working in a beet plant.

During her trips, she gets used to being a nomad with the help of seasoned nomads that she meets along the way including Linda May, Swankie, and

nomad expert Bob Wells. Fern is friendly and helpful to the people that she meets and her purpose in being a nomad is to remember her husband, though she could have instead lived with a relative of hers. The nomad lifestyle is like workers in the gig economy except they have to do a variety of jobs in their local community instead of going around the country.

We see scenic shots of America throughout a year as well as long tracking shots of Fern walking in dark lighting in some scenes which describes the style of Zhao's films. There were a lot of jumpcuts in the film to speed it up and make Fern's journey more straightforward. The difference between nomads and pioneers is shown in the second half of the film where pioneers have successful jobs and live in the suburbs.

The movie was filmed before the pandemic began and it is relevant to what is happening right now as a lot of people are trying to find work. It shows various industries being phased out because of improvements in technology; the film highlights that everyone should learn a lot of new skills just in case they may lose their job. Having a fresh start after losing a job can allow you to adjust to a new environment, explore career options, and maybe get back on track in *Nomadland*.

See you down the road. *Nomadland* is available on Disney+.



# 'Orange' of intimacy

› A review of a virtual dance show by plastic orchid factory



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**The concept of 'Orange' is fantastic—a display of intimacy and vulnerability with another person feels almost foreign in this day during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Sonam Kaloti  
Arts Editor

*Orange* is the fourth piece in a six-part adaptive series by plastic orchid factory, based out of Left of Main in Vancouver's Chinatown. It was performed by experimental dance artist Deanna Peters/Mutable Subject, and Winnipeg-based street dancer Less San Miguel/LessIZM.

The concept of *Orange* is fantastic—a display of intimacy and vulnerability with another person feels almost foreign in this day during the COVID-19 pandemic, and yet this is what makes the show that much more captivating. It reminds of the emotional and physical connection our inner health demands which we must continue to engage in curiously, openly, safely, and never close off completely—even in times like these. The dance is described as, “We’re shedding the formalized tropes of the performer-audience relationship in favour of something more immediate, strange and open, reaching towards a non-codified intimacy, an emergent togetherness that is greater than the sum of our body parts.”

The dance itself has nine parts, however, it is easy to interpret many meanings from just one part. Initial shyness at the prospect of being open with someone new, being scared, running away, coming back together and ultimately feeling as one being. The dancers support each other, often seemingly represented by them bearing each other's bodies in tight-fitting positions. Each viewer will take something different away after watching this piece.

The blocking during the dance was incredible. Both dancers were constantly in motion, beginning and ending in precise blocking positions that consistently had deeper meaning to them upon reflection.

The soundscapes used during the performance were both beautiful and enticing. They placed a specific atmosphere of feeling emotion in an enclosed space, generally vulnerable. Adam 2 was the live DJ for this performance.

Atop soundscapes, the physical atmosphere was gorgeous, as well, with constant lighting and POV changes. Two cameras followed each dancer, from single shot views of them individually, to couple shots, through to very experimental cinematography. The shots played with a “mirror” type of feel, where we could only see certain body parts emerging from the edges of the camera view, the dancers creating entirely new forms with just their bodies. A beautiful addition to the lighting was the use of two different light colours to shine in opposite directions, so in each camera view, the background wall would shine a different colour. James Proudfoot was the lighting support for this show.

The outfits worn by the dancers were unique; one outfit had a full heart in a circle, looking full and unbroken but somewhat isolated, and the other simply had fractures all over the body. These costumes were designed by David B. Smith.

Although *Orange* was only performed on April 9 and 10 over zoom (free or by donation), plastic orchid factory has many upcoming shows that may be of interest to you. The next show is titled *Solo* and tickets can be found on the plastic orchid factory website.

Photos by Reza Rezai



# LIFE & STYLE

- A sweet take on Canada's official drink
  - The importance of putting yourself out there
  - The aura of old school diners
- ...and more

## Don't trust a ho\* with skinny checkered jeans

› The Rawring '20s on TikTok

Alexis Zygan  
Staff Writer

Y2K Fashion is making a comeback with low-waisted jeans, bedazzled t-shirts, and velour tracksuits. One of the aesthetics popularized during the Y2K era was scene fashion. This subculture primarily existed within the confines of Myspace and Hot Topic—back when the exterior resembled an after-hours sex



Illustration by Janis McMath

dungeon. In 2020, the alt community on Twitter was trying to get scene fashion to make a comeback during the “Rawring ’20s.” A reference to the popular “rawr means I love you in dinosaur” graphic t-shirt that many scene kids still have in their wardrobe.

The scene kid’s attitude was similar to the emos but with a happy twist. However, the emo aficionados accused the scene subculture of stealing their style. The significant difference between emo and scene was the iconic haircut. Eighteen Visions bassist Javier Van Huss is credited with the invention of the hairstyle according to Wikipedia. Teenagers would razor cut their hair to create choppy textured layers, swooping side bangs, and dye strands neon colours, add coontail extensions and hair accessories such as clips, tiaras, and bows. Bands associated with the scene subculture were Bring Me the Horizon, Pierce the Veil, and Metro Station, all of whose members had changed their style to embrace modern alternative trends when Myspace died (as did their coontail extensions).

Writing this segment on scene fashion on TikTok instilled a sense of nostalgia in me. As a preteen, I teased my hair to achieve the texture needed for the hairstyle and desperately wanted to dye my hair neon pink but accepted the alternative of neon pink skinny jeans from Urban Planet. We were part of a generation of kids who popped out the lenses from 3D glasses to add a nerdy flair to their outfits and wore raccoon eye makeup with heavy eyeliner to hide the eye bags from staying up all night listening to A Day to Remember music videos and scrolling Myspace. Nostalgia is a trickster that convinces us the past was a better time for us. But maybe we should leave skinny jeans in all colours of the rainbow in the past.

Scene kids were the precursor to e-girls, with their textured brightly coloured hair, handmade Kandi bracelets, and fishnet fingerless gloves. Neon was all the rage. Rave kids took inspiration from the scene subculture, creating Kandi for their PLUR (peace, love, unity, and respect) Kandi trading ritual.

On TikTok, millennials are nostalgically recreating the looks they once wore during their scene era. Some of whom continue to refer to themselves as scene queens to this day. For those who want to relive our emo phase, physically—not emotionally—there is #scenefashion TikTok with visuals where people dress up as they did during their scene phase. Current scene queen @acidmilk666 has a TikTok video series with a step-by-step guide on transforming into a scene kid. She makes a DIY rainbow tutu out of tulle and, in another, a rainbow-studded bracelet. A scene queen outfit is not complete without a tiara or bow. She has a tutorial where she makes a Kandi tiara out of plastic beads and even shares her recommendations on where to buy scene clothes for people less craft-inclined.

TikTok user and self-described “emol-lenial” @smolpuppz dives into scene fashion and history on her TikTok. In addition to a video with updated scene looks, @smolpuppz also points out that any outfit is scene, as the main component of the look is the hair and makeup. The drink of choice for scene kids was Monster Energy. They saved the tabs to wear as necklaces, often with multiple tabs on one. @smolpuppz mentions this in her scene kids accessory part three TikTok video. @theemochronicles on TikTok share an archive of scene-kid history from scene music to updates on where scene celebrities are now.

Unfortunately, for those wanting to revive scene culture into the mainstream, the Rawring ’20s change.org petition only received 400 signatures at the time of writing this article. The scene subculture died out alongside Jeffree Star’s music career. However, there will continue to be people who keep the subculture alive on TikTok sporting the hairstyle and knee-high converse with multi-colour leopard-print laces.

Next week we will be discussing the aftermath of scene queens and emo chicks: e-girls. A label used to degrade teenagers and young adults for being sluts reclaimed through internet culture. For the Gen Z scene queens unwilling to spend an hour styling and teasing their hair and buying a new bottle of hairspray each week.



# CJ's Caesars: The Rye Caesar

## › A sweet take on Canada's official drink

CJ Sommerfeld  
Staff Writer

In 2009, the Caesar was named Canada's official drink—really? A vodka-based cocktail? Canada has not created much, but one thing that we can be proud of is our rye. So, for this week's "CJ's Caesars," we are going to make a rye variation.

I have bartended for eight years, throughout which I am constantly asked, "Make me your special." Sure, some bartenders might have a signature drink, but I never did. When asked this, I always improvised with the ingredients I had around me: different liqueurs, juices, garnishes, etc. It is enjoyable to approach mixology with creativity, and frankly, sometimes it works out and other times it is a big flop. That is how this recipe came about.

Regardless, this Caesar's ingredients are not entirely random, but instead of been derived from an unlikely suspect: the Manhattan. This drink is pretty much a rye martini and its ingredients are simple: rye, sweet vermouth, bitters, orange, and maraschino cherry—we will be using all these ingredients in our rye Caesar.

A quick note about vermouth: in other parts of the world, such as Spain and Italy, it is normal for people to drink vermouth (which is essentially fortified and aromatized wine). In Spain, they



Photos by CJ Sommerfeld

have bars designated to the liqueur called Vermuterias. Within Canadian culture, this seems odd since vermouth is usually some bottle that gets dusty on the shelf as we only add a 1/2 ounce as an additive into different cocktails.

Another quick note about the snifter glass. For rye's sake, I chose to use a snifter for this drink. A classic Caesar usually uses a tall rocks glass, whereas a Manhattan is often served in a martini

glass (which can be stemmed or not). A snifter is a short-stemmed goblet of sorts. Neat whiskeys and liqueurs are served in these glasses; their shape apparently enhances the sensory experience of drinking these different alcohols. Alright, this sounds boujee, but let us remember that the Caesar is the least boujee cocktail if there ever was one. Hopefully, that cancels out the negative association.

### MATERIALS:

- Jigger
- Shaker (optional)
- Whichever glass you would like (I used a snifter)

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 ounce sweet vermouth (also called red vermouth or vermouth rosso)
- 1.5 ounces rye (I just used regular rye, but Crown Royal has both a maple and peach flavoured variation)
- 8 ounces Clamato or any generic tomato and clam juice mix
- a teaspoon of Orange extract
- a dash or two of Angostura bitters
- ice cubes

### GARNISH:

- Cinnamon stick
- Maraschino cherries
- Orange flavoured dark chocolate

### RIM INGREDIENTS:

- 2 ounces pure Canadian maple syrup
- dash of red chilis
- dash of nutmeg
- a small plate worth of brown sugar

### METHOD:

- Check the next page!





1. Always remember to rim the glass first! I could kick myself for how many times I have forgotten this step when making rimmed cocktails! Pour two or so ounces of maple syrup into a small plate—and make sure that the plate is bigger than the rim of your glass! Instead of lime juice as per the classical Caesar, this rye variation is going to be rimmed with maple syrup.



2. Mix the remainder of your rim ingredients in another small plate. Now rim your glass with this mix of sweet and spicy ingredients. The rim of your glass will be sticky from the maple syrup; that stickiness will hold the brown sugar, nutmeg, and chilis in place.

3. One thing to note is most iced cocktails are prepared in the same order: ice, alcohol, followed by whatever juice or ingredient the recipe calls for. This applies to this recipe as well: add the ice, vermouth, rye, orange extract, and Clamato to a shaker (optimally in this order).

4. Now, you do not usually shake a Caesar (in fact, I have never seen a shaken Caesar before). But we are going to do it in this one. In doing so, we can completely blend the vermouth, rye, and orange extract with the clamato, not to mention that shaking Clamato juice gives it a bit of froth which I find refreshing. Shake for 30 seconds, or until the outside of the shaker frosts. (If you do not have a shaker, you can just layer these ingredients directly into your rimmed glass and stir them instead of shaking them. If you opt for the stir method, jump to step 6.)



5. Pour (do not strain!) the chilled ingredients from the shaker into your rimmed glass.

6. Add one or two dashes of bitters.

7. Garnish! Put two (or however many you would like) Maraschino cherries through a toothpick and balance on the cup's rim. Similarly, balance the orange flavoured chocolate on the cocktail's ice (it will eventually drop and mix into the Caesar). Last, throw in a cinnamon stick!

8. Enjoy! I would recommend not using a straw—the brown sugar, nutmeg, and chili rim prepares the palette for and compliments the rye, vermouth, orange, and tomato!





# Practical financial advice for students

» Interviewing personal finance coach Raeah Bromfield and life coach Courtney Adams

Alexis Zygan  
Staff Writer

There is no better time to become financially literate than as an undergraduate student or recent graduate. It may be overwhelming to see the amount of student loan debt you have accumulated. Do not fret; help is here.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in communications, I decided it was time to transform my relationship with money. A relative gifted me the personal finance novel, *The Wealthy Barber*. But I found the plotline outdated and the topics hard to wrap my head around. There needs to be clear, straightforward, and easy-to-access resources that guide students to financial freedom and fill the gap left over from the education system. Fortunately for us, financial experts on social media demystify credit scores and provide practical, helpful advice. The books worth reading are *Clever Girl Finance: Ditch Debt, Save Money and Build Real Wealth* by Bola Sokunbi, and *Get Good with Money: Ten Simple Steps to Becoming Financially Whole* by the budgetnista Tiffany Aliche.

## WHY DO WE STRUGGLE WITH MONEY?

Our relationship with money is complex. We may have grown up in households where money was a topic of contention. Money fights were

the leading predictor of divorce in a 2013 study of 4500 couples by the Journal of Family Relations. How people around us discuss money shapes our relationship with finances. Shame about bad credit scores or a history of bankruptcy may lead to avoiding the topic altogether.

The *Other Press* spoke with Vancouver activist, life coach, and podcaster Courtney Adams over Instagram to get her advice for young people struggling with their finances. Her advice is to "acknowledge that everything we have learned about budgeting responsibly and how to make money is a lie taught in a way that holds people back from making money. Aversion to risk and fear of debt leaves people thinking they're bad with money when they're not."

There is a psychology to changing financial habits through visual reminders such as lists and budgets. As a starting point, prioritize saving over spending. Raeah Bromfield suggests "saving 10 percent of your income." The *Other Press* spoke with globetrotter and personal finance coach Bromfield over the phone about saving, barriers to financial literacy, and her one-on-one coaching service launching in early May. "Not having access to living wages and affordable housing [is a barrier to financial literacy.] If you do not have enough money to cover your necessities, there is no way that you will benefit from financial literacy," says Bromfield.

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Aversion to risk and fear of debt leaves people thinking they're bad with money when they're not."

– Courtney Adams,  
life coach





## OPEN A TAX-FREE SAVINGS ACCOUNT NOW TO MAKE MONEY!

For those privileged enough to live within their means, save a percentage of your income with an automatic monthly transfer to a TFSA (tax-free savings account). Most banks allow you to open a TFSA for free or minimal fees and the only way to lose money is if you over contribute. The TFSA contribution limit for 2020 was \$6,000. Many financial experts say that the biggest mistake a person can make is not having a TFSA, in addition to their chequing account. RRSP (registered retirement savings plan) and mutual funds are more complex for beginner investors (I suggest arranging a meeting with a financial coach). Bromfield's clients can expect from her a "non-judgmental, friendly [approach]," and she is "willing to meet them wherever they're on their financial journey." Before launching her business, Bromfield mentored family members and friends to understand how money advice needs to be tailored to an individual, recognizing triggers for overspending and personalized budgets, because yes, a budget is necessary to meet your financial goals.

If anything, the past year and a half has shown us that the future is always uncertain. Having funds allocated in case of an emergency is vital so you don't end up going into debt from not paying bills, which negatively affects your credit scores. You can check your credit score for free using [creditkarma.ca](https://creditkarma.ca). However, it is worth pointing out that a high credit score does not correlate with financial responsibility. (Personally, I believe credit scores exist as a function within the capitalist system to ensure the rich keep getting richer.) One of the main ways to build credit is by borrowing money, i.e., using a credit card, and then paying off what you spent. Wealthier people can borrow more money at a lower interest rate to invest in property and other assets. Credit scores dictate housing, access to a vehicle, utilities, etc.

## APPS TO HELP YOU BUDGET

KOHO, a new era of banking, offers free financial advice with a premium account. A fantastic feature of KOHO is that it separates your spending into different categories, making budgeting easier. I use the app Mint, where I load my debit and credit card, so purchases automatically show up and set a budget for spending categories. Once a week, I check Mint

to see where I should be spending less. Bromfield recommends Wally, YouNeedaBudget (YNAB), the old school pen and paper (her preferred method), and the notes app.

In Canada, secondary students graduate with a medium debt between \$19,200 and \$21,300. Comparably in the United States, the student debt burden is at a crisis amount of \$1.6 trillion. University education is a stepping stone out of poverty and a chance to start a fulfilling career. Debt is also a big reason why some students decide to end their education after high school or prefer the trade school path. For recent university graduates who log in to uncover their debt amount, it can be overwhelming leading them to avoid checking their bank account out of shame or embarrassment for their empty bank account. "I know what it's like not to want to look at your debt, but you gotta do it. Ask yourself, why are you avoiding looking at your bank account? Is it because there's not a lot of money in there? If so, what can you do to add some money in there? If we face our fears, it gets a lot easier and less scary."

We are used to making personal goals for ourselves (I set mine once a month during the new moon). Why not set goals for our finances? To ensure we meet our goals, Bromfield suggests creating a financial plan, taking note of your debt, interest rate, and establishing a payment plan. For Bromfield, her goal was travel for which she successfully saved \$10,000 in eight months. She used not paying rent, living at home with her parents to her advantage, depositing the money she would have spent on rent into a savings account.

We can live in a world where young people no longer have to face hurdles to financial security. Bromfield says, "When I started believing [financial success] was possible, it was possible. When you change your habits, you may be surprised how capable you are." Adams shares encouragement with readers. "It is never too late to feel confident asking for raises and manifesting a dream career [after university]."

Follow Courtney Adams on social media @courtney\_adams, and her podcast *Do Epic Shit*. Follow Raeah Bromfield on social media @intentionally.wealthy and at her website (also called intentionally wealthy).

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I know what it's like not to want to look at your debt, but you gotta do it. Ask yourself, why are you avoiding looking at your bank account?

– Raeah Bromfield,  
personal finance coach

# THE AURA OF OLD SCHOOL DINERS

› Interviews with the owners of Vancouver diners: Helen's Grill and Ovaltine Café

Brandon Yip  
Senior Columnist

Relics from the past are difficult to find; old-school diners from the 1950s are few and far between. There are not many left but there are a few—you just have to search real hard to find them. Two classic Vancouver diners are profiled in this article: Helen's Grill and Ovaltine Café.

## Helen's Grill

Helen's Grill is located at 4102 Main Street in Vancouver near the corner of Main and King Edward Avenue. It first opened in 1961, serving delicious classic tasty entrees to its regular customers. The restaurant has its trademark long counter with stools, and directly across from it are several booths—with jukeboxes at each table. Unfortunately, with the latest provincial health restrictions banning indoor dining till April 19, Helen's Grill is serving only takeout and delivery.

The owner is Nick Petrakis, who bought the restaurant from his uncle George in 2011 who has owned it since 1979. Petrakis says the pandemic has caused significant changes. "The pandemic has had a huge impact on the business especially the most recent shut down of DINE-IN," Petrakis said in an email interview with the *Other Press*. "We are a diner (hence DINE-IN) and most people love to come and enjoy the decor as well as play the jukeboxes." He says having to shift to takeout and delivery has been a mountain to climb: "[It has been] very challenging as mentioned earlier, our customer base consists of a large percentage of customers dining in. Most people will not order breakfast to take home."

Petrakis hopes restrictions will be lifted so he can once again serve customers inside his restaurant. He believes his restaurant, which has maintained its classic look—appeals to many of his loyal customers. "It's the old diner feel," he states. "From classic old school foods, to the décor, and the mini jukeboxes at the booths. It's a classic mom-and-pop shop where everyone is treated as they are part of the family."

Petrakis, when asked what he would order if he was a customer at his restaurant, said he would order a breakfast, lunch, or dinner entree. But he stated that if he is in a breakfast mood, he would order the Smoked Meat and Hash: "No explanation—the name says it all. Smoked meat comes from Montreal with grated hash with onions and peppers topped with poached eggs and hollandaise." He then included an honourable mention: "The Liver and Onions—according to numerous old school customers."

## Ovaltine Café

Ovaltine Café at 251 East Hastings Street opened in 1942. The restaurant is well known for its classic bright neon signs located above its front entrance and on its front windows. The inside architecture with its booths, countertop, and adjoining stools where customers eat and interact with the front staff have been used in numerous television and feature films such as *I, Robot*, *Supernatural*, and *The X-Files*. Notably, it is not only Vancouverites who enjoy this timeless restaurant. In September 2018, *The Telegraph's* travel section listed the Ovaltine Café as one of the 50 greatest cafes on Earth.

The restaurant is owned by a mother-daughter duo, Grace and Rachel Chen, who have operated the iconic eatery since 2014. Grace and Rachel have a long association with the Downtown Eastside. Before owning the Ovaltine Café, Grace operated the café inside Save On Meats from 1999 till 2010. At the time, it was an open kitchen located in the back of a butcher shop where young Rachel helped her mother. The building was later sold to restaurateur, Mark Brand.

The pandemic has been challenging for the Ovaltine. They have also shifted to takeout and delivery. Rachel says the pandemic has affected her

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It's even [harder] for us to estimate what's going to happen in a month or two. Things change so fast; we can only hope for the best and not close shop like many others in the city.

– Rachel Chen, owner of Ovaltine Café

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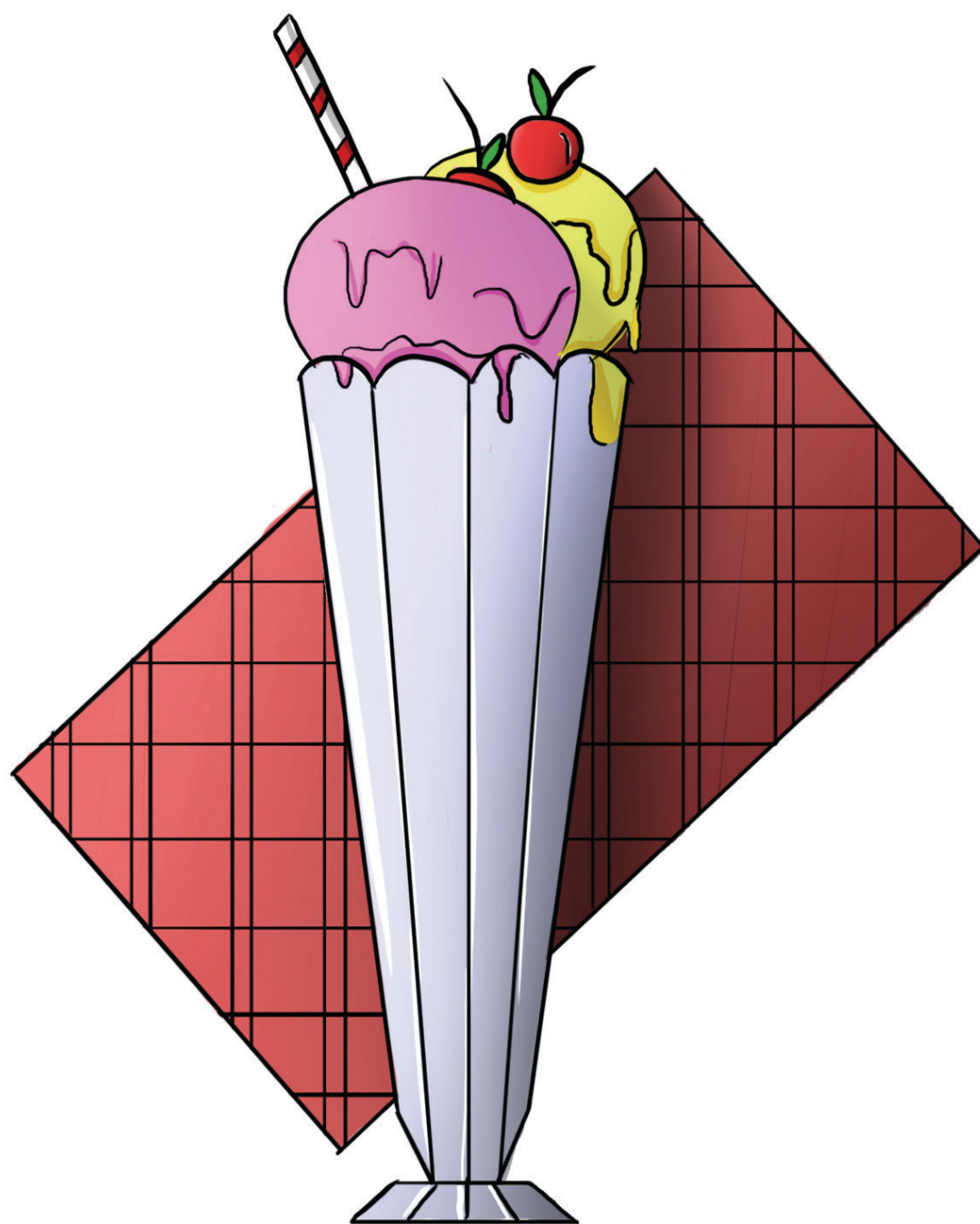


Illustration by Athena Little

business, and it has also been difficult not having any social interactions with customers. "Especially with the new dine-in restrictions, it's making surviving even harder," Rachel said in a Facebook message to the *Other Press*. "Everything has gone up, which forced us to also adjust our price, but also keeping our price affordable and continue to service the same quality of food. At this point, we are just taking our business one day [and] one week at a time. It's even [harder] for us to estimate what's going to happen in a month or two. Things change so fast; we can only hope for the best and not close shop like many others in the city."

When asked what she would order if she were a patron at her own restaurant, Rachel said it was difficult to choose what she would order. "No doubt anything breakfast! I can't just pick one," she laughed. But if she had to choose a dish, it would be her fish and chips. "I know it's not breakfast and super random, but I love our fish and chips and I pretty much only eat [that] from our shop," she said. "Also, because we are

good family friends with the only seafood owner for many, many years, so we did learn a trick or two from them before they closed shop."

## Final thoughts

Diners appeal to so many people, young and old. There is a nostalgic aspect to why diners resonate with people. Maybe it takes them back to their childhood, reminiscing about happier moments with family and friends. Whether it is eating at Helen's Grill or Ovaltine Café, the diner experience becomes etched in our brains, leaving us with powerful memories to cherish. Perhaps American chef, Mario Batali, describes the diner experience appropriately: "The objective is to achieve a comfort level between the cook/artist/performer and the customer/viewer/diner. And if we can achieve that, and the customers are happy, and the cooks are happy, then we have a great experience."



# Twelve years led to this graduation

## › The importance of putting yourself out there

Craig Allan  
Business Manager

In June 2009, I graduated from high school. As I sat in the audience of the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver, with my diploma in hand while watching all the other kids get their diplomas, there was only one thing on my mind: it's all downhill from here.

School was never easy for me; I could never get high marks, I was in essentials math classes, and no matter how hard I tried, I always seemed to get just C's. When I sat there on graduation day, seeing all my peers (many with gold tassels and different sashes indicating excellence around their necks) I felt defeated. I thought, "No one will ever want me. I am doomed to be destitute on the street."

I went to Douglas College in the fall of 2009, mostly because I didn't want to get a job. I took history classes because I was always good at that and after my first few classes I was averaging A's and B's. But even then, I could not see any work value I had to offer the world.

By 2011, I had completed all the classes I was interested in taking. I got a job, and I didn't know what I wanted to do with work, so I left school. By 2015, I was doing great. I was in a job I liked, working at Target Canada, and a job I didn't like. I was about to quit that job (to work at Target more frequently) when the news came down that

all Target Canada stores were closing. Now, not only did I still feel like I didn't belong, but even the places that wanted me were getting shut down.

With no plan for the future, I went back to Douglas informed that I could get a certificate if I took a few classes. I figured I had nothing better to do, so I applied. I got that certificate in June of 2016, which also came with a ceremony. Despite the many years removed, my feelings of not being marketable or desirable for a job hung strong.

I thought since I was so undesirable I should just work and maybe something good will happen to me. After all, my parents never really went to post-secondary and they managed to find well-paying jobs. If they could do it, so could I. I was blind to the fact that the world my parents grew up in no longer existed. People in my generation need higher education if they want a chance at a halfway decent life.

In 2019, I decided to be proactive. Even if I didn't have an idea of what occupation I wanted, I decided I should still get a degree anyway—working two jobs, six days a week, and not even making enough money to cover half the average rent in the lower mainland was not sustainable. I took one class in the summer with a plan to save up enough to attend classes on a more full-time basis in 2020. January 2020 comes around, and I officially went back to school. I planned to get my first 60 credits



at Douglas and then go to Simon Fraser University in the hopes of graduating with an english-history double major degree. My plan slowed a bit by the coronavirus pandemic, but so far, the plan is working even better than I expected.

Unlike before, where I just kept my head down and did the work, I decided this time I would put myself out there. I joined the school's paper and met great people who showed me that I do have value and I have something to offer the world. I went to conferences, staff parties, and for the first time, I felt like I belonged somewhere, which gave me more confidence and helped me get through the difficult classes. And hey, now because of my new job, for the first time I have a level of financial security of knowing that I will be making a

certain amount of money every month!

In June 2021, I will receive a diploma in general studies (if I passed a challenging Statistics class—fingers crossed). This time, the ceremony will be different. Replacing the in-person ceremony (due to the pandemic) will be a box mailed to me with my diploma inside. Replacing the in-person ceremony will be a sunny disposition instead of the feelings of uselessness and dread that I have suffered through for the last 12 years; I now see my future with more joy and promise. I don't know what the future will hold for me, but what I do know is that my outlook is bright; my potential realized. I go forward with confidence and enthusiasm about the path that lies ahead.

# Life advice on unusual things

## › Maybe these will help, maybe they won't!

Morgan Hannah  
Life & Style Editor

We seem to be living in the generation of life hacks, self-help, self-discovery, and all kinds of random advice, so in the spirit of offering my own advice, here are a few tidbits to share with you, dear reader!

If you paint your nails just a little outside the line frequently, this is a hack for you! Just the other day, I painted my nails (or more accurately, my fingers) a beautiful bright red, and instead of trying to remove the extra polish with a Q-tip dipped in polish remover (we all know that would end in tragedy...) or by picking away at the polish, I decided to just leave it be. It'll fall off on its own naturally, right? Then I moved on to moisturizing my hair, and while combing through my hair with my fingers covered in leave-in conditioner, I noticed how the skin around my nails seemed to be cleaning up nicely without scratching or mucking up my polish! Who knew!

Starting and ending your day with 10 to 15 minutes of yoga puts you in a better mood and opens your body to receive the day ahead, or, in the case of evening yoga, a restful night's sleep! I know that yoga twice a day might seem like kind of a *stretch*, but you *are* putting in the hard work for your body in the long run—I promise. As a bonus, you'll improve your flexibility and organ health by participating in daily yoga, too! And you'll feel better about yourself for

taking the time for you.

When you wake up in the morning, before you do anything else, start your day with two small glasses of water. "Why wouldn't I just have one bigger glass?" you ask. Well, if you're anything like me (and a good number of people apparently), ensuring you drink enough water throughout the day is a more challenging thing than it seems. So, the smaller glass will encourage you to drink all the water—and drink it more quickly! Then, repeat with the second glass!

Next, consider getting high (marijuana only—nothing serious here people!) midway through the day to achieve "drymouth" and require another glass of water. Repeat the same process from up above and congratulations! You've now just drank two of the six daily recommended glasses of water!

Try not to plan anything for a month, instead experience everything "on the fly" as often as possible! That way, you'll never be disappointed, and you'll always come across as that spontaneous and super fun person everyone wants to hang around! If this doesn't work for your lifestyle, try planning everything to a "T" for the next whole month and become that uber-organized person everyone admires.

Once again, these are all fun little advice tidbits to add to your day to see if you find any improvement or habitual changes that lead to more enjoyment or better health.



Photo by Nhi 'Jenny' Vo

# OPINIONS

- Super activism leads to super mansions
  - The future of our province is bright
  - It's time we move away from the idea of minimum wage as the default
- ...and more

## Minimum wage: the worst option

› It's time we move away from the idea of minimum wage as the default

Craig Allan  
Business Manager

I have a theory when it comes to politics: if a politician ever wants to stop something new from happening, they can invoke what I call “The Fear of the Unknown” argument. This argument implies that doing something new and radical should not be attempted because it has never been tried before so it can't be done. This argument, while not specifically stated as such, is most likely made by politicians when it comes to things like paying for college tuition or universal basic income. However, this has changed due to the pandemic, as many Canadians were essentially given a universal basic income with the CERB.

The pandemic has flipped the world upside down and when it is over, much like with the Great Depression or the end of World War II, there will likely be a public desire to change the way our systems are run. One of the aspects of our lives that will likely be put under the microscope will be our use of the minimum wage.

Between universal income and no income, minimum wage is the worst option because it gets you money, but never enough. So, with the pandemic spawning a progressive movement (I hope) it's time we consider the two options that could, and should, replace minimum wage.

The first comes in the form of a universal basic income. What this would involve is the government topping up the salaries of people who work low wage jobs so that maybe they can afford the basics. The Liberal government is pushing this plan and it seems to be gaining traction in other parties and campaigns.

Some may wonder how the government can afford this, but if an article I wrote a few months ago about a certain group of homeless people being given \$7500 is any indication, I think we



will see good results. When given the money to get on their feet, most people actually spent it wisely, and directly funding people actually saves more money for the government as compared to eternally funding homeless shelters.

When it comes to this discussion, everyone talks about how there should be a universal basic income, but rarely does anyone focus on the opposite end—abolishing the practice of set wages.

This idea is more my own, but under this plan businesses would be allowed to hire people

for little to no pay under the guidance that they will be getting trained in that job. This will allow people to get training in jobs they may actually be interested in and would be great for people just out of high school trying to find themselves.

Be assured though, this is not a blanket wage free initiative. Under my plan, businesses would only be able to hire up to 30 percent of a section of a workforce with these types of employees. This is because they are there to be trained, and if there is no one to train them, then they are just working for nothing. They would also only be allowed to do this for two years max, so as not to trap anyone in an endless cycle of work but no pay. Also, employers like McDonalds and Canadian Tire would not be eligible for this, as the jobs they have are already low wage and not very highly skilled.

Some may balk at this plan, but what they don't realize is that we already have this system in place; a system where we have to work hard for nothing, but in fact it's worse—we have to pay for that privilege. That is the post-secondary system. The only reason to really go to college is to get an education that you can use to get a job. If someone, especially someone from a low-income family, can get a couple years of training at a top notch place, they might be able to avoid having

to spend money at an expensive college. In the end the college costs may be more than what they would make if they were being paid minimum wage.

Either way, something has to change in our system. In 1919, a general strike in Winnipeg was the impetus to the creation of the minimum wage. But with sky-high housing prices and the overall cost of living, minimum wage can only give you just that: the minimum. I think it no longer works for Canada; we need to fire it and find something better.

Illustration by Athena Little

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Minimum wage is the worst option because it gets you money, but never enough.



# Sneak peek of BC budget in throne speech

› The future of our province is bright

Jerrison Oracion  
Senior Columnist

It is now more than a year since the coronavirus pandemic arrived in the province and we did a great job handling it compared to the rest of the provinces. Last week, the number of new cases in a day passed 1000 cases for the first time due to the surge of cases caused by the variants of the coronavirus—and this made Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry angry. There were no extreme lockdowns during the pandemic so far which made fewer damages to the BC economy and kept it stable.

The province offered grants to reduce the amount of costs related to the pandemic and keep businesses open which was summarized in the speech from throne read by Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin on April 12. The speech began with Austin addressing the recent passing of the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, that had happened three days earlier before summarizing the progress on reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in the province and the success of the province's response to the pandemic. Most of the speech was a



Photo by Billy Bui

sneak peek of what will be announced in the BC budget speech which will happen later this month.

Austin then explained the goals of the government in this session of the BC Legislative Assembly, including improving long-term care homes by hiring more staff and building more hospitals to accommodate everyone. These actions would help reduce wait times and remove

the limitations that were discovered during the pandemic. The BC government's commitment to reforming ICBC continues by reducing insurance rates by 20 percent on top of a grant that was offered during the pandemic and continuing the rate freeze that passed savings onto drivers. There will be more funding for infrastructure projects including SkyTrain expansions in Broadway and Langley, the

new Pattullo Bridge, and finally building the replacement of the Massey Tunnel.

The pandemic led to more people using the internet and in turn, towns need better coverage to keep everyone connected and to help small businesses adapt to online shopping through the Launch Online program. Also, the pandemic led to a surge in hate crimes against Asians because of the coronavirus originating in China. To address that, an anti-racism bill will be developed as well as reforming the Police Act. Austin ended the speech by saying that because of how prepared the province was during the pandemic and the initiatives that were made "the future of our province is bright." The initiatives taken by the province will be explained in further detail during the BC budget speech.

The BC speech from the throne this year is like a summary of the provincial government's accomplishments during the coronavirus pandemic and a first look at the major announcements that will be made in the budget speech. Despite the fact that the pandemic is not done yet, the province will be even more prepared to address changes in the pandemic and future pandemics.

# If our Roaring Twenties are near, are present-day young people the modern Lost Generation?

› Our Lost Generation is shedding light on the Karen and BLM for future generations

CJ Sommerfeld  
Staff Writer

Recently, I have seen a lot of articles which speculate that our post-pandemic life will be comparable to that of the Roaring Twenties. That is, the period of time following WWI when the world witnessed massive economic growth (introducing consumerism), great advancements in the arts, as well as a transition to a value system that rejected the past. These are just a few elements that defined this era. But, while the end of the war was a breath of fresh air for most, those who were reaching maturity when it began came out of it disillusioned as most of what they had been taught about the world had been proven wrong during the war. This group of youngsters quickly transformed to be the progressive voices of the time and were later referred to as the Lost Generation. We too, have these radical voices among us.

To be fair, Millennials have already been called the modern Lost Generation. This was because of something that occurred before anyone had ever heard of COVID. We gained this title since we entered the workforce during the worst

economic depression, since, well, the Great Depression. I believe the modern Lost Generation, however, is a title that belongs to those younger than most Millennials. Let's say, the last years of Millennial-hood that tapered-off into the Gen Z era, and a couple years beyond that... 1990-2000 or so.

Out of the original Lost Generation evolved a group of writers and artists who began creating works reflective of their battered world views. They abandoned many of the old traditions which seemed to have betrayed the whole world, and instead let their new perspectives direct them. Visual works from this time were not idealized like they had been previously, but instead depicted dark, raw, and real portrayals of life. As for literary works, many criticized this new-found consumerism and wealth that occurred after WWI. One novel worth noting is *The Great Gatsby* which criticizes the wealthy and sheds light on the false optimism which was previously connoted with the Colonial American Dream. You could say that these Lost Generation artists exchanged a rosy perspective for one much truer after WWI ended.

Now, coronavirus has not only made young people re-think economics (for

example personal spending and saving), but also their job choices (What work is essential? What work can I do from my living room?) Larger, and frankly more important than both of these, are the grassroots matters that society seemed to have gotten so conditioned to. During covid some very important issues got brought to the public's attention: the BLM movement, the Karen trope, and subsequently cancel culture (which had been lingering for a bit but is now in full swing). While I do not entirely side with everything that cancel culture has done, I can see that it is rooted in something progressive. Because of the public attention which these issues have garnered, those who choose to can work together to try and extinguish them.

WWI wrung the young people of the time dry of anything flowery and left grittiness and rawness, allowing them to

see the world for what it was. In current days, racial inequalities and treatments have been so thoroughly woven into Western society, it is about time that such a large uprising has occurred. If we can emulate anything from the Roaring Twenties, let it not be mass consumerism, but instead why not abandon old ways and adopt this raw perspective which the original Lost Generation had. By opening a blind eye, we can recognize the flaws in society that we have become so accustomed to, and ultimately work towards social justice. Those who create works that speak about these issues are our Lost Generation.

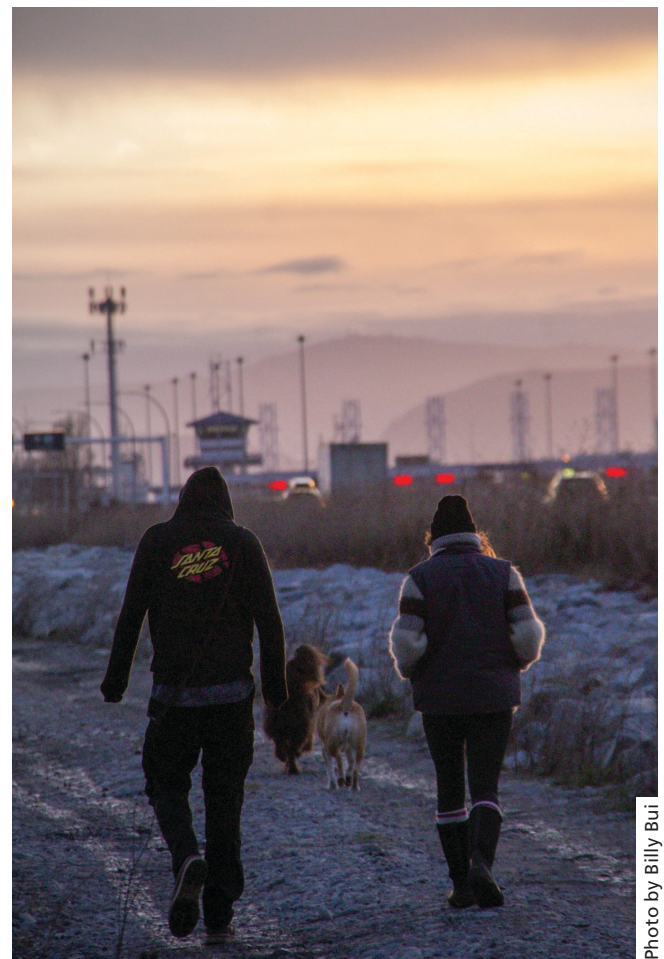


Photo by Billy Bui

# Super activism leads to super mansions

› Let's hope that's not where all the BLM money went

Matthew Fraser  
Opinions Editor

Last summer felt like everyone had just woken up to the evils and horrors that I had been seeing for years. The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery moved millions to the streets, but it was bittersweet to watch Black Lives Matter (BLM) explode into prominence. The way George Floyd's last words echoed those of Eric Garner's showed how little things change. A bystander's camera meant nothing at all as both men had the breath choked out of them by the police who claimed to "serve and protect." Their deaths were an old shock made new.

As I watched black squares flood timelines and #BLM sprout on everything from sidewalks and neighbourhood windows to Tinder profiles, I couldn't help but feel a sense of uneasy vindication. I thought that maybe the unsolved murders of six Ferguson, Missouri organizers would be remembered and called into question. Maybe the tragic murder of Oluwatoyin Salau would not slip into the shadows, forgotten and unspoken. Maybe my longstanding skepticism of the BLM machine would be proved wrong. But as I watched and observed, as I talked to some of my friends, I realized that they hadn't seen the splintering of BLM and the well-deserved criticisms that followed it. As I saw "anti-racism" sell like hot cakes and corporations throw their money behind it, I realized that my skepticism was no less deserved than I had imagined.

The problem with BLM has always been that it existed as three separate things using one name: the movement, which is the hashtag you see and the feeling of righteous indignation that is felt at the sight of racial injustice; the collectives that arise organically to address local problems; and finally, the corporation known as Black Lives Matter Global Network (BLMGN). When the feeling that drives the movement explodes into the streets, the local organizers often serve to channel the angers of the people to good deeds and community ends, while the corporate entity was meant to channel needed money and attention to the right places and facilitate improvements in the world. This is why so many BLM organizations erupt so quickly, exist so chaotically, and die just as fast. In a 2016 interview with *USA Today*, Patrisse Cullors (one of the three original founders of BLM) explained the decentralized organization by saying: "We don't get the people onto the streets, they get themselves onto the streets." But no matter how the people get to the streets, corporate Black Lives Matter still gets its share.

In a February AP article, BLMGN admitted receiving over \$90 million in 2020, but *The Economist* magazine puts their number at a little over \$10 billion. Imagine then my suspicion when a recent report by the *New York Post* outlined that Cullors had just purchased a 1.4-million-dollar house. This after owning three other homes worth a combined \$1.8 million and looking into purchasing luxury property in the Bahamas worth an excess of \$5 million.

Two things are worth mentioning at this point. The first being that Cullors' wealth is quite possibly legitimate earnings from media deals she has recently signed. Though Cullors infamously referred to

herself as a "Trained Marxist," she has signed a book deal (yielding the best selling *When They Call You a Terrorist*) and a separate multi format media deal with Warner Brothers, both for undisclosed amounts. The second being that various local chapters of BLM have been claiming for years that the corporate entity has done nothing to aid them despite the immense stream of donations amassed. In late 2020, a collective of 10 local chapters broke away and attempted to expose Cullors and the corporate wing. When the BLM10 went public in outlining the years of neglect, they posted a short separation statement listing Cullors as a chief cause. So, though there are legitimate questions to be asked about where all of the BLM donations have

gone and why the grassroots movement is so wanting, it's also possible that Cullors has not herself stolen those donations.

Unfortunately, the fact that Cullors has turned activism into a multi-million-dollar house purchasing plan calls well-meaning donations into question for the 100th time. The fact that she is now some super-star activist with mansions dotting the country while police killings continue is an outrage. Neither her book deal, nor her media deal have moved the effort to end qualified immunity an iota either. Worse still, last year the FBI arrested a BLM leader named Sir Maejor Page for fraud after he spent \$200,000 of BLM donations on himself, so even the local organizers must be regarded with caution. In the battle to

end systemic racism, fundamental human greed may be a not so small enemy along for the ride.

We once learned to look skeptically at every cancer foundation and African well digging fund, sadly, so to must we mistrust our social justice movements. When the street level organizers who were supposed to be supported by corporate BLM are left wanting, the whole action becomes shaky. Given that the families of victims once represented by BLM have come out in force demanding the money raised on their trauma be delivered to communities or the families personally, the perversion of these houses becomes clearer. It's a shame that not even the goodness that comes from pain can remain uncorrupted.



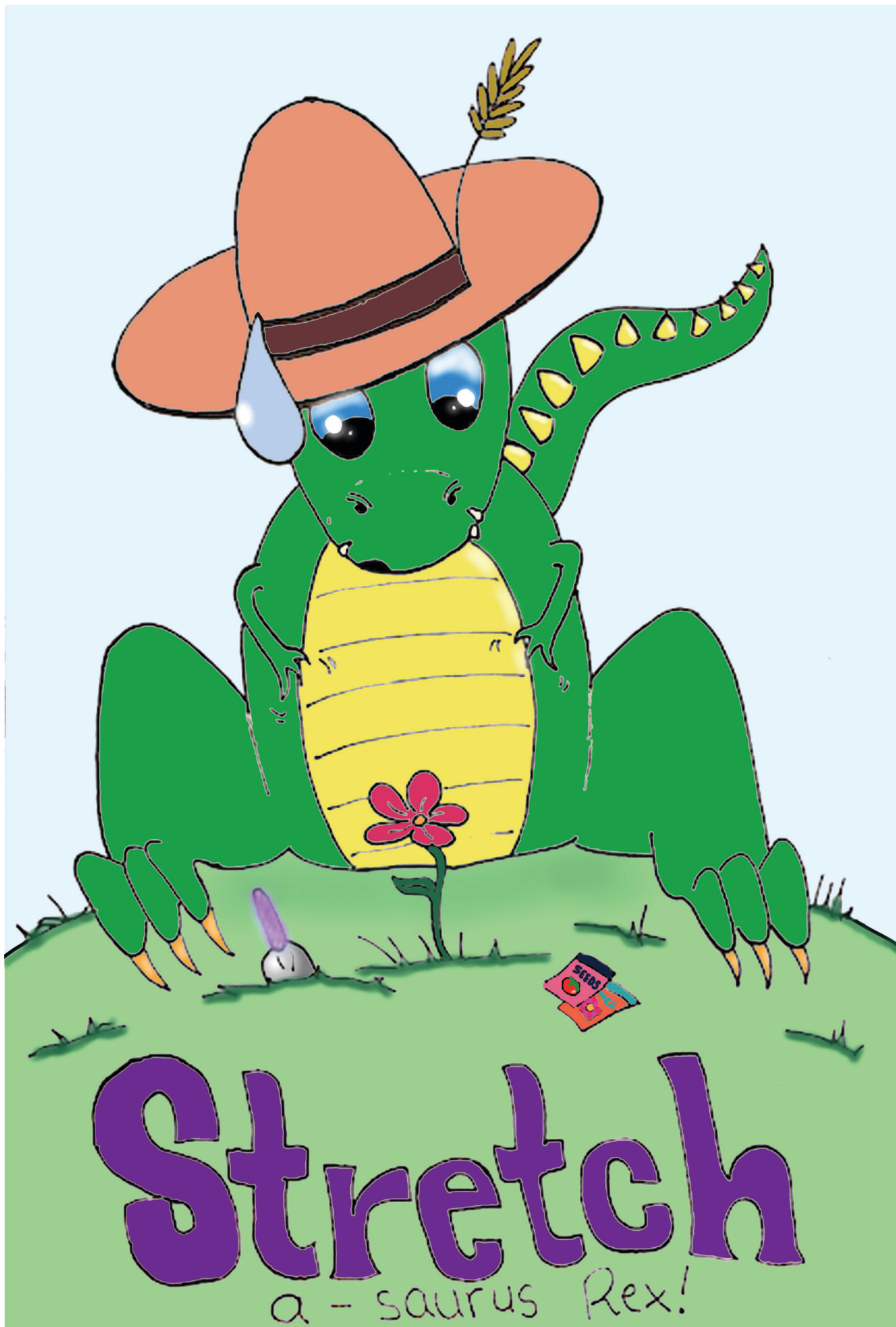
Illustration by Janis McMath



## Rug User



## Stretch-a-saurus Rex





# COMICS

## Financial Literacy





# CREATIVE WORKS

## Its hours

CJ Sommerfeld  
Staff Writer

in our own city  
we know all the hidden alleys  
and which are gritty  
chipped bricks soaked in piss  
and recognize the wise man's graffiti  
apart from an international art school graduate's  
committee  
commissioned to ornament  
the concrete factory's exteriority

yards and vacant lots that belong to  
no one  
(we can take short-cuts through these)  
a free-for-all rosemary bush in front  
grab a bunch  
grab a ton don't touch  
they're doused in urine



we can reiterate what the masses of modernity  
contemporaneity  
chunks  
were before  
those who gentrify  
decided what we need  
heedless conjectures  
we wouldn't dare defy  
inattentive eye

we knew which poles didn't come out of the ground  
it was only these we locked  
are bikes too  
choose one unsound  
our bikes to  
profound?

we knew which fields got afternoon sun  
where to lay and get undone  
eat brunch  
listen to grunge  
goose shit stained the blanket's front  
ideas rotund

we knew the location  
of the cheapest liquor store  
route most convenient  
it's ours  
and its hours

in our own city we thought we knew  
how to read its cues  
how to subdue  
those who eyed what we created  
delude  
discernments askew



# CREATIVE WORKS



Illustration by Sonam Kaloti

## Go fast

Sonam Kaloti  
Arts Editor

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crack pot.  
little whispers,  
“did you see her  
blowin’ dust, coughin’ windpipes.”  
so slow  
all these shadows seem to move,  
are you scared that I’m not your type?

oh, go fast.  
bloody fingers,  
death wish lingers.  
clutching glass,  
reflecting downtown.

gunshots  
echoing all through the city.  
do these ladies want a piece of me?  
I’ve got shorts on at three degrees.  
they’re telling me to leave,  
get used to a little knee.



# CREATIVE WORKS

## Space Geographer Returns: Part 12

Morgan Hannah  
Life & Style Editor

**I**t feels like I'm trapped in an earthquake, and this is the last place I'd want to be if I am. The ground is shaking, the walls are shaking—everything is moving altogether as one.

And when I think it might be over, I am wrong. Dead wrong. The mountain uproots itself and lifts up out of the sand. I know this because the entrance is now up much higher, and I can feel the sensation of my organs rising into my throat, like when on a ride at an amusement park. I just hope there's no drop later.

The scrabbling noise from further inside the mountain, and the darkness, doesn't stop but only quickens in pace. My heart is beating so hard, my ribcage stings—I need to get out of here! It was a stupid idea to enter a *breathing* mountain!

Opening my eyes, I make for the exit. One foot after the other, it's a struggle to move fast while shimmying sideways though the small space, and it doesn't help that the rocky surface all around me is damp and slippery—in the dark it's difficult to make out stable footing. My numb fingers push at the rock rather than grip it, and I'm almost at the edge when behind me, there's movement.

"Aaaahhhh!" They push, shove, claw, and jump around my body as if I am nothing more than a boulder in their path. My stomach is flat against the rock—it's cool to the touch—and I look up just in time to see alien after green alien jumping, leaping, and catapulting out the entrance to the rock, all the while the shaking, earthquaking motion has not seized. In fact, it seems as though we're moving forwards. *My God! This is a giant creature of some kind—it must be!!*

Getting to my feet, I follow after the creatures, pausing at the lip of the crack. The sun is blinding and hot, and I am up at least 15 feet. There's a pile of green bumps and limbs squirming through the sand down below.

"Why did they all jump?" I ask myself, and only the rumbling of the mountain answers.

*There's something else coming...* The thought is dark and surprising, and I have to count to five before I dare turn around and stare into the darkness, just to make sure there's nothing behind me. I'm alone. For now. But there's still one more question left to answer: *Do I jump?*

*Continuation of this exciting adventure next week!*

# CROSSWORD

Weekly Crossword  
OnlineCrosswords.net

ACROSS

- 1. Zeal
- 6. Drama divisions
- 10. Adrift
- 14. Pioneer Daniel \_\_\_\_
- 15. Dull person
- 16. Cab
- 17. Advanced gradually
- 18. Advised
- 20. Flavorful seed
- 22. Tennis's \_\_\_\_ Sampras
- 23. Lode yield
- 24. "\_\_\_\_ we forget"
- 26. Fender dimples
- 28. "The Texas Chainsaw \_\_\_\_"
- 32. Price marker
- 33. Choose
- 34. Labor
- 35. Soft wool
- 39. Within earshot
- 41. Sunday dinner item
- 43. Rind
- 44. Monet, e.g.
- 46. Handbag
- 48. L. \_\_\_\_ Hubbard
- 49. \_\_\_\_ Moines
- 50. Lengthen
- 52. Ski resort
- 55. Love to excess
- 56. Bombshell \_\_\_\_ West
- 57. Rotisserie rod
- 61. Lawmaking body
- 65. Enlarged
- 68. Pass on
- 69. Remain
- 70. Make over
- 71. Bring to mind
- 72. Of sound mind
- 73. \_\_\_\_ the waters
- 74. Saw socially

DOWN

- 1. Fortas and Lincoln
- 2. Went by bus
- 3. Hounds
- 4. Shaquille and Tatum
- 5. Mutton, e.g. (2 wds.)
- 6. NBC's rival
- 7. Henhouse
- 8. Correct
- 9. Shipped
- 10. Had a meal
- 11. Beauty shop
- 12. Put forth
- 13. Helpers
- 19. Family car
- 21. Accompanies
- 25. Three musicians
- 27. Omelet items
- 28. Da Vinci's "\_\_\_\_ Lisa"
- 29. Imitator
- 30. Medical "at once!"
- 31. Thrill
- 32. Skin drawings
- 36. Gumbo veggie
- 37. Civil disturbance
- 38. Diarist \_\_\_\_ Frank
- 40. Go by bus
- 42. Auctioned off
- 45. Perceive
- 47. Came in
- 51. Swiss city

1		2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14							15					16			
17							18				19				
20						21		22					23		
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28	29	30						31		32					
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39			40		41			42			43				
44				45				46			47		48		
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52	53	54						55							
56				57	58	59	60		61			62	63	64	
65			66					67			68				
69					70						71				
72					73						74				

Previous solution

R	A	T	S		A	B	L	E		P	L	A	T	O	
A	L	O	T		D	E	A	R		R	E	N	E	W	
D	O	O	R		A	D	D	I	T	I	O	N	A	L	
A	N	T	E		P	S	Y	C	H	O		E	S	S	
R	E	H	E	A	T					E	R	A			
				P	R	E	P	A	R	E		G	E	N	T
E	E	L		G	R	A	D	E		A	U	D	I	O	
A	D	I	E	U		D	I	P		L	A	D	L	E	
R	I	F	L	E		R	O	O	S	T		Y	E	S	
S	T	E	M		B	E	S	T	M	A	N				
			S	S	E				E	R	A	S	E	D	
S	O	S		P	A	N	A	M	A		T	I	D	E	
A	L	T	E	R	N	A	T	O	R		U	R	G	E	
L	E	A	S	E		S	O	R	E		R	E	E	D	
T	O	R	T	E		A	P	E	D		E	N	D	S	



# GOOD LUCK

## WITH YOUR FINALS & EXAMS!

*You Got This!*

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Our final virtual front desk drop  
in session and the final day to  
apply for the Emergency Food  
Bank is ***Friday April 23rd.***

**The DSU offices will still be open  
Monday-Friday, 10am-3pm.**  
(until further notice)